



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 15

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Fifth Session

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

Monday, March 12, 2012

The Speaker took the Chair at 1:30 p.m.

Speaker's Statement

I would ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to open the main entrance doors of the Assembly, pursuant to Motion 11 which was approved by this Assembly last week.

Honourable Members, this day is of particular significance as it is the second time in our history that Mr. Rick Hansen, C.C., O.B.C., has spoken from the Chamber floor. On May 8, 1997, Mr. Hansen addressed the Members from the floor of the Legislative Assembly. He is the only individual in the 107-year history of this Assembly to have been invited twice to speak to the Members.

Mr. Hansen is an exceptional individual who is committed to motivating people to recognize their dreams and to turn them into reality. Twenty-five years ago Rick Hansen established his Man in Motion Tour across the globe. For 26 months he and his team wheeled over 40,000 kilometres through 34 countries raising awareness for spinal cord research.

The Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay is retracing the Canadian segment of the original Man in Motion World Tour. The relay, which started August 24, 2011, in Cape Spear, Newfoundland and Labrador, is travelling westward to British Columbia. The nine-month relay will cover 12,000 kilometres and visit over 600 communities in every province and territory of our great country.

Today we invite Mr. Hansen to make a stop on the tour to join us and to say hello. Mr. Hansen, welcome again to the Alberta Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Rick Hansen's Address to the Assembly

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you so much for this incredible honour.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is an incredible honour to be here to present to you an ongoing journey, a vision, values of this country. I feel so privileged to have been a young kid growing up in rural Canada who had a devastating accident that seemed to have shattered hopes and dreams. It was the values and the spirit of this country, family, friends, community, medical profession, and role models all working together to help me rebuild my life, to have hopes and dreams, to be able to then look back and think about what I could do to make a difference, to pay it forward to the lives of others. It spawned the Man in Motion Tour, to be able to find a cure for spinal cord injury, to make the world more accessible and inclusive for the hundreds of millions of people with disabilities just waiting for the opportunity to express themselves, to be welcomed in families, in homes, and communities.

All those years wheeling across the country and around the world is a tremendous experience. You know, I felt so buoyed because I was looked up to as a Canadian no matter where I went in the world. I felt proud of our values and what we stand for. I also was incredibly inspired when I came across this country in the middle of winter, facing insurmountable odds and obstacles to see the wellspring of support from local citizens everywhere, people lining the streets, joining with me in a conversation about what this country aspires to be: a healthy and inclusive place for all, a country that also takes its rightful role in the world in leadership, in friendship, and in common spirit.

I'll never forget the incredible response that I received when the Premier met me at the border here in Alberta and welcomed me to this great province, the incredible support here at the Legislature, in universities, in high schools, in hospitals and rehab centres, and on the streets every single day, making me feel like that road wasn't long and lonely but that it was surrounded by family and friends, one country united with one common purpose. When I completed the Man in Motion Tour in May of 1987, I crossed a finish line that said, "Welcome home, Rick," and above it there was a sign that said, "The End is Just the Beginning." Well, you can imagine what I must have thought of at that point after having gone through all those miles and all those incredible challenges. In reality the tour was over, but the dream had just begun.

It was a new conversation with our country, and millions of people picked up that cause and translated it into their own purpose and translated it into real change year in and year out, making fundamental progress towards a cure for spinal cord injury and accessible and inclusive communities. You know, it's hard to measure those profound moments of change in one year. But after 25 years looking back, there is so much to be proud of, so much to celebrate. This is why we decided to conduct the 25th anniversary, going back to places all around the world and, of course, right across this great country, to be able to recognize local champions, to move from one man in motion to many, to make this a nation's journey, to continue to move forward for the next 25 years until we get to the goal.

I feel so privileged to be doing this cross-Canada relay in joining 7,000 difference makers who have been with me and so many others for all these years, to recognize the spirit of Albertans, to see close to a thousand Albertans actually out there on the relay and each one of them having their own amazing story. Of course, here in the gallery we have two amazing difference makers that I'd like to recognize. I'd like to ask that Amanda Magyar stand up and, of course, Benjamin Tumack. If you could stand up and be recognized.

Amanda, you are an incredible difference maker. You are someone who has set goals and chased dreams. You exercise leadership and self-esteem amongst young people. But you also believe in a healthy planet, and you're continuing to exercise stewardship of this great earth here locally and inspiring others around the world.

Of course, Benjamin, I'd like you to stand up because you've also overcome many obstacles yourself with a physical disability, but you don't see disability in your attitude and spirit. We see only ability. You not only translate and overcome your obstacles to make a difference with muscular dystrophy and so many amazing ways to make a difference, but you have aspirations of representing your country as an elite wheelchair basketball player in the juniors and also in dreams with the Paralympic Games to make all Albertans proud. You are the representation of 850 Albertans who have been part of this relay. I'd like to ask Members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing you and saying thank you and congratulations. We are proud of you.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, we have come a long way, and there is much to celebrate. I'd like to say a special thank you to the Members here in this Legislature. Each and every one of you are making a difference. You have stepped up to serve your constituencies and your province well. You're making change. You have been partners with us for all these years to make sure that Alberta is a world-class research organization with universities and hospitals finding a cure and connecting with the world. You have made sure that your communities are accessible and inclusive for all, and you see it reflected here in this Legislature with people who happen to have disabilities, but they're expressing ability in an inclusive way. These examples of success are worthy. We appreciate your partnership.

We look forward to the next 25 years together. It's going to be a fantastic, accelerating contribution that we all make. I'd like to say thank you so much for being part of my dreams, helping me to feel like our best work is in front of us. I look forward to one year at a time, one stroke at a time, one contribution at a time until we get to that end. Thank you so much, and never give up on your dreams. I really appreciate it. Thank you.

Speaker's Statement – Members' Anniversaries

The Speaker made a statement in recognition of the 11th anniversary of 11 Members of the Legislative Assembly who were elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and the anniversary of two Members who were first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on March 12, 2001.

Members' Statements

Mr. Rodney, Hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed, made a statement regarding Rick Hansen's efforts to find a cure for spinal cord injury and his 25th Anniversary Relay.

Dr. Sherman, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, made a statement regarding the need to protect children from second-hand smoke.

Ms Woo-Paw, Hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay, made a statement regarding DiverseCT Alberta, a network of Alberta communities for diversity.

Mr. Drysdale, Hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti, made a statement congratulating Team Alberta for their achievements at the 2012 Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Doerksen, Hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks, made a statement regarding the Greenhouse Research and Crop Production Complex at the Crop Diversification Centre South in Brooks.

Mr. Amery, Hon. Member for Calgary-East, made a statement regarding the increase to the monthly financial benefit and income exemption thresholds for Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped recipients.

Mr. Jacobs, Hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner, made a statement regarding the building of the Alston Scout Park in Magrath.

Hon. Mr. Denis, Deputy Government House Leader, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 7(7) in order to complete the Daily Routine.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Mr. Blackett, Chair, Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, pursuant to the Auditor General Act, cA-46, s19(5):

Report of the Auditor General of Alberta, March 2012

Sessional Paper 136/2012

Mr. Rodney, Hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed:

Reprint of a Calgary Herald article dated March 11, 2012, entitled "A new perspective: the health-care glass is not half empty"

Sessional Paper 137/2012

Ms Notley, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona:

Petition signed by 776 Albertans urging the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to take immediate action to regulate electricity prices, recognizing that electricity is an essential service

Sessional Paper 138/2012

Dr. Sherman, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition:

Letter dated March 12, 2012, from Dr. Sherman, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, to Cheryl Scarlett, Director of Human Resources, Information and Technology and Broadcast Services, Legislative Assembly Office, regarding the reimbursement of pay received by Dr. Sherman for 41 months served on the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders, and Printing, with attached copy of a cheque from Dr. Sherman to the Minister of Finance, Legislative Assembly

Sessional Paper 139/2012

Graph, undated, entitled "Youth Smoking Rates Among Albertans Aged 12-19"

Sessional Paper 140/2012

E-mail message dated March 9, 2012, from Dan Holinda, Executive Director, Canadian Cancer Society, Alberta/NWT Division, to Dr. Sherman, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, expressing support for Bill 203, Tobacco Reduction (Protection of Children in Vehicles) Amendment Act, 2012, and for a free vote on the Bill

Sessional Paper 141/2012

E-mail message dated March 9, 2012, from Janis Seville to Dr. Sherman, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, attaching a letter dated March 9, 2012, from Leigh Allard, President and CEO, The Lung Association, Alberta and NWT, to Dr. Sherman expressing support for Bill 203, Tobacco Reduction (Protection of Children in Vehicles) Amendment Act, 2012, and for a free vote on the Bill

Sessional Paper 142/2012

E-mail message dated March 9, 2012, from Shandy Reed to Dr. Sherman, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, attaching a letter dated March 9, 2012, from Dr. Candace Nykiforuk, Centre for Health Promotion Studies, School of Public Health, University of Alberta, to Dr. Sherman expressing support for Bill 203, Tobacco Reduction (Protection of Children in Vehicles) Amendment Act, 2012, and for a free vote on the Bill

Sessional Paper 143/2012

Report, undated, entitled “Smoke-Free Vehicles: Protecting Youth from Exposure to Tobacco Smoke in Vehicles” prepared by a Campaign for a Smoke-free Alberta

Sessional Paper 144/2012

Tablings to the Clerk

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Responses to questions raised by Ms Notley, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, and Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, on February 13, 2012, Department of Human Services, Supplementary Supply Estimates debate

Sessional Paper 145/2012

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Public Bills and Orders Other Than Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

On the motion that the following Bill be now read a Second time:

Bill 203 Tobacco Reduction (Protection of Children in Vehicles) Amendment Act,
2012 — Dr. Sherman

A debate followed.

The question being put, the Bill was agreed to. With Mr. Cao in the Chair, the names being called for were taken as follows:

For the motion: 34

Ady	Griffiths	Mitzel
Allred	Groeneveld	Notley
Berger	Hancock	Oberle
Boutilier	Hinman	Prins
Brown	Home	Quest
Campbell	Jacobs	Sandhu
DeLong	Johnson	Sherman
Denis	Johnston	Swann
Doerksen	Liepert	VanderBurg
Elniski	Lund	Weadick
Forsyth	MacDonald	Xiao
Goudreau		

Against the motion: 0

The following Bills were read a Second time and referred to Committee of the Whole:

Bill 203 Tobacco Reduction (Protection of Children in Vehicles) Amendment Act,
2012 — Dr. Sherman

Bill 204 Land Statutes (Abolition of Adverse Possession) Amendment Act, 2012 —
Mr. Allred

Temporary Recess

On motion by Hon. Mr. Denis, Deputy Government House Leader, the Assembly recessed at 4:49 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Motions Other Than Government Motions

503. Moved by Mr. Benito:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to examine the feasibility of creating tax incentives to support cultural endeavours.

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was defeated.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Denis, Deputy Government House Leader, that it be called 6:00 p.m., the Assembly adjourned at 5:24 p.m. until Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Monday, March 12, 2012